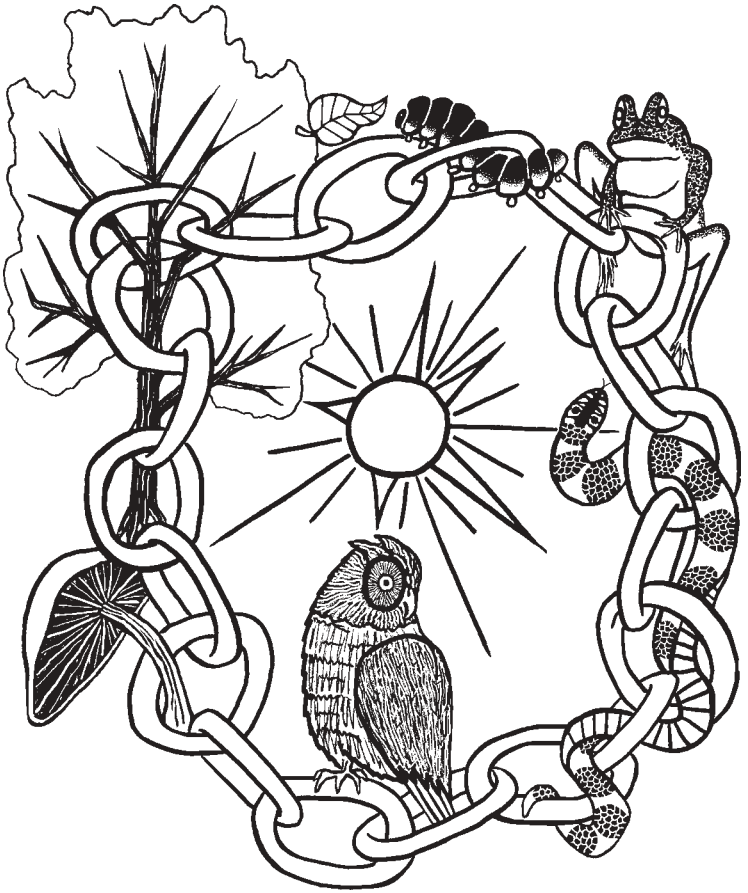


Cincinnati Parks

School Programs



2002

2003

Cincinnati Parks Educational Services

In the pages of this guide, you'll find Park Naturalist-led programs for students of all ages and levels of ability. Use the guide to locate those programs that best complement your classroom lessons and to help you schedule a program or field trip for your class.

See you out in the parks!

The Cincinnati Park Board's Educational Services Section has a mission to educate people of all ages about the ecological and historical resources in the Cincinnati Parks and Preserves, and to assist in their protection and management.

We operate 5 nature education centers, and also offer programs out in neighborhood parks. For information about a specific center or Krohn Conservatory tours, call the naturalists at the numbers below. For general information and most reservations, call the Bettman Center.

Avon Woods Nature Ctr.	4235 Paddock Rd. Paddock Hills / Avondale	861-3435
Bettman Natural Resources Ctr.	4 Beech Lane O'Bryonville / Evanston	321-6070
Caldwell Nature Ctr.	430 W. N. Bend Rd. Carthage / Hartwell	761-4313
California Woods Nature Ctr.	5400 Kellogg Ave. California	231-8678
Krohn Conservatory	1501 Eden Park Dr. Eden Park / Walnut Hills	421-5707
LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Ctr.	5400 Lanius Lane College Hill	542-2909
Trailside Nature Ctr.	Brookline Dr., Burnet Woods Clifton / Corryville	751-3679

Reasonable accommodations will be made upon advance request.

Call 321-6070, 421-5707 (Krohn), or **352-3380 (TTY)**.

Wheelchair hikes are possible at Caldwell and California Woods.

Welcome to the natural heritage of your Cincinnati Parks.

Parks & Preserves with Trails

- 1 - Mt. Echo Park
- 2 - Glenway Woods
- 3 - Brodbeck Preserve
- 4 - McFarlan Woods (Mt. Airy)
- 5 - Mt. Airy Forest
- 6 - Stanbery Park
- 7 - Seymour Preserve
- 8 - French Park
- 9 - Little Duck Creek
- 10 - Ault Park
- 11 - Magrish Preserve
- 12 - Buttercup Valley / Parkers Woods

Nature Centers

- A - LaBoiteaux Woods
- B - Trailside (Burnet Woods)
- C - Krohn Conservatory
- D - Caldwell
- E - Avon Woods
- F - Bettman
- G - California Woods



How to Schedule a Program:

For Krohn Conservatory tours, call 421-5707.

For all Naturalist programs, call 321-6070 ext. 10.

Programs fill quickly, so please schedule *at least* 3 weeks in advance.

When you call, please have ready:

- ➔ several preferred dates already cleared with administration and buses, since we cannot put “holds” on dates
- ➔ preferred program and location, and an alternate
- ➔ the number of children and adults coming
- ➔ school and grade level
- ➔ contact name; phone & FAX numbers



Group Size / Chaperones

The number of children we can handle varies. On most days, each nature center can handle 3 average classes (about 60 - 65 children) simultaneously. If you are planning to bring more than 65 children, we may need to schedule them for multiple centers or multiple days.

Each class needs to be accompanied by at least the teacher; 2 adults per class is preferred. The Naturalists rely on you to control the group, and to be with them during all the activities.

Fees / Payment

The average program fee, regardless of length, is **\$3.00** per child or adult chaperone for schools located within Cincinnati; **\$5.00** per child / adult for schools outside Cincinnati. All teachers come free. Programs involving consumable supplies may cost more and are noted in program descriptions.

Payment can be made by voucher / P.O., or by check (payable to: Treasurer, City of Cincinnati) in advance or at the time of the program.

Confirmations / Cancellations

Approximately one week prior to your program, you should receive a call from your Naturalist, to confirm the details of your program. Please feel free to call the nature center any time prior to your visit to discuss your program or request that it be customized for your class.

We do not send out written confirmations.

Except in cases of weather emergencies, cancellations must be made at least 48 hours in advance of your scheduled visit, or a \$20.00 service fee will be charged. We do proceed with programs in cases of rain, normal winter cold, etc.

Lunches

Lunches should be marked with each child's name, and include a drink (The nature centers do not have pop machines). Depending on weather, children can eat inside the nature center, or outside at picnic tables.

Dress for Success

Come prepared for the weather, and count on being outside for at least part of the visit. The true value of a nature center is in its forests and fields; we want the children to experience nature outdoors.



Children should wear rain gear or coats as the weather requires, sturdy shoes (no open-toe shoes), and hats and gloves in cold weather.

Parking

Free parking is available at all the centers and Krohn Conservatory.

Typical Program / Times

Half-day programs can be either morning or afternoon, and run from 1-1/2 to 2 hours. A typical half-day program consists of either a hike, or an indoor program and a hike. Most program topics described in the following pages can be offered in a half-day format; *however*, some activities will be dropped due to time constraints.

Full-day programs last 3 - 4 hours, and include a lunch break. The typical full day program consists of an indoor program, a hike related to the program theme, and various hands-on activities. Most of the programs described in the following pages are designed to be full-day programs. *For the best experience, we recommend that you come for the full-day program.*



Accessibility

Reasonable accommodations are available upon advance request. Wheelchair-accessible hikes can be done at Caldwell and California Woods Nature Centers (some indoor program elements not wheelchair accessible at California Woods). Call the Centers for details. Program content and presentation style can be adjusted to accommodate children with learning delays or disabilities, or Naturalists can work with teachers to create an appropriate program.

Customizing

Park Naturalists are happy to work with you to customize our programs to best fit your instructional needs. If you would like specific vocabulary, concepts, activities or information emphasized, please call the appropriate center as soon as possible to work out those specifics.

Many of the programs listed in the following pages have been designed to address **proficiency** and **promotion standards**. Please call the appropriate center for more information.



About grade levels

Many programs listed show a broad grade range. For these, we do **different variations appropriate for the different grades or ability levels**.

Center Naturalists can explain how they would adjust the program for your class.



Outreach

The programs as described on the following pages are designed for presentation at the indicated nature center. However, many of those topics can be handled as outreach programs in neighborhood parks. Of course, activities will be modified; what can be done depends on the resources available at the outreach site. Call the appropriate nature center to discuss details of what can be offered at specific locations and how programs would vary from what is described.

Outreach programs are limited to Cincinnati Parks

Outreach Fees:

- \$3.00 per student or adult chaperone (Cincinnati schools).
- \$5.00 per student / adult (schools outside Cincinnati).

Programs suitable for outreach, with a neighborhood park variation available, are indicated by this icon  following the program title. You can also locate  outreach programs by using the “Quick View” pages at the end of the brochure.



Teacher Services

We periodically offer **workshops in Projects WILD, Learning Tree, and WET.** If your school is interested in setting up a workshop for staff, call 321-6070 ext. 14 to discuss arrangements. Or, to attend as an individual, leave your name, address, and phone number with a message that you would like to be informed when a workshop is being held.

Looking for a Land-Lab?

Park Naturalists can advise you on setting up a land-lab on your school property. Better yet, let us work with you on how you can use a Cincinnati Park near your school as a land-lab.

No charge for this service for schools located within the City of Cincinnati.

Call the nature center nearest your school, or 321-6070 ext. 14.



“Back to Basics” Programs

These programs are available year-round at most nature centers.

Seasonal Hikes and Programs



Nature reinvents itself with each changing season. These hikes and programs explore and explain the changes and phenomena associated with the particular season of your visit. Included in these would be such favorite topics as: Why leaves change color and fall in autumn; How animals prepare for or survive winter; Spring flowers and Bird migration.

Local Wildlife

Learning to identify and appreciate local wildlife opens doors to understanding the natural world, and how humans and wildlife interact. Most programs use a combination of taxidermied mounts and small live animals (snake, turtle, toad). The emphasis can vary to suit your needs and objectives.

Your Basic Nature Topics



Planning a unit on **birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, trees, or wildflowers?** A Naturalist program can bring it to “life” with taxidermied or mounted specimens, slides, lore and information, and hands-on exploration in a park.



Endangered Species

How do plants and animals become endangered? What animals are endangered in Ohio? What are people doing about it? A Naturalist talk, with hands-on games and activities, answers these and other questions.

Avon Woods Nature Center

Program & Description

Season Available

Grade Level

Earth Savers

F, W, S

K-2

This interactive program is anything but garbage! Students participate in storytelling, a play, simulations, a rotting log study and many more hands-on experiences. These fun and active techniques educate participants on human recycling, nature's recycling, and composting. Program is limited to 3 hours or less. Classes can apply for FREE transportation to this program from Hamilton County Dept. of Environmental Services by calling Sue Magness at 946-7736 for more information and a transportation voucher application form.



Animal Real Estate

F, W, S

K-3

Students relate local animal habitats to their own homes and neighborhoods. A hike, hands-on activities and a fun-filled animal presentation closely examine the four components of a habitat. Closing activities focus on conserving habitats and creating new ones in their backyards.



Life of an Ohio Native American Child

F, W, S



K-4

Emphasis is placed on the daily life (food, clothes, family, education) of an Ohio child ± 300 years ago in a lively presentation with audience participatory role-playing, games and dances. Students discover on a hike how these early inhabitants interacted with their natural environment.



Mysteries of the Plant Kingdom: Seeds to Trees

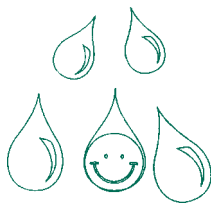
F, S



1-3

Students become detectives and use observation, evaluating and simple classification skills to solve the cases of the Great Seed Mystery, Puzzling Parts and Fictional Forest. We will explore life cycles, seasonal changes, photosynthesis, and plant needs and characteristics, and discover the effect plants have on our everyday lives.





Wet-n-Wild

F, S

1-4

After learning basic water concepts, students demonstrate the ways and reasons why water is important to people and wildlife. A water cycle play, dynamic introduction to wetland animals, stream study (weather permitting) and other activities allow active participation.

H2 Whoa!

F, W, S

4-8

Hands-on activities are used to analyze the physical characteristics of water, demonstrate the connection of water to all earth systems and discuss water as a natural resource that needs to be managed. Problem-solving skills and critical thinking will be encouraged in large and small group simulations, a stream study (weather permitting) and the activities.

Our Weakening Web



F, W, S

5-8

This program sets the foundation for understanding the basic concepts of endangered species, food chains, web of life, predator - prey relationships and other connections between living things in an eco-system. A hike focused on using the scientific process, role playing games and other activities challenge students to become stewards for the environment. Half of program available for outreach in parks.



Ohio's Heritage

F, W, S

5-8

Let us help you teach the heritage of our state during this year's **Ohio Bicentennial Celebration!** This fast-paced program allows students to step back into time to role-play families moving into Ohio, make survival decisions and fail or prosper accordingly. The hike focuses on Ohio's pre-settlement Native American culture. Other activities include participatory games and daily chores from the past. Please allow 4 1/2 hours for the total program.



Caldwell Nature Center

Program & Description

Season Available

Grade Level

Native American Life

F, W, S

K-8

Interactive program with games focuses on the everyday life of an Ohio Native American family. Program for older students emphasizes family relationships and coming of age, includes an interactive session on sign language and pictographs, and can include a balanced look at the conflicts between settlers and Ohio tribes. The hike stresses Native Americans' historic uses of forest resources.



The Wild Places: Local Habitats



F, S

K-12

Classes will use categories to compare and contrast different orders of Cincinnati plants and animals. This program will emphasize the different niches and ecological relationships in our ecosystems, and the various adaptations of plants and wildlife to specific habitats in this region. Much time is spent exploring several different habitats on the hike.



Fossils, Soils and Cincinnati Geology



F, W, S

K-12

An introduction to soil formation, fossils, and the geological forces past and present that shaped Cincinnati. The hike includes soil studies, examples of erosion and a fossil hunt. Youngest students focus on "What is a fossil?" Oldest students also cover paleo-ecology, glaciation in Cincinnati, and the rock cycle.

The Green Team: Wildflowers, Weeds, and Trees



F, S

K-9

Learn how plants share the same basic needs of life with other living things. Program will focus strongly on plant structure and photosynthesis. Fall emphasis is on trees, with an opportunity for leaf collections and the use of classification keys.



Weather

F, S

2-8



Students perform experiments to learn about the elements that make up weather, and how predictions are made. Grades 2-3 hike to look for weather effects. Grades 4-8 work in teams to make a simple classroom weather station.

Cycles and Recycles



F, W, S

1-8

Study the many ways both people and nature recycle. Clear up confusion over the three R's, recycling and composting. Hike focuses on natural cycles and decomposition. Make and take a vermicomposting (worms) box for classroom composting.



Maple Sugaring

Feb / Mar

K-8

How do sugar maples produce sap, and why can we only collect it for sugaring during this brief season? Explanations come from both science and legend. Watch us collect sap from trees and cook it down into sweet rewards. Students taste maple sap in 3 stages of production. This is a **1 hour program**, of which half an hour is spent outdoors.

Prolific Pollinators

S

2-7



Plant reproduction and the creatures that make it possible are the foundation of all ecosystems. Follow the life cycle of angiosperms from flower to seed, with giant props and lively activities. Explore wildflowers, pollinators and seed dispersal outdoors. If weather permits, students can watch from a screened tent while a beehive is opened.

Aquatic Communities

F, S

4-8

What makes water the most important factor for life on earth? Students will learn about the physical properties of water and how these properties impact creatures that dwell in aquatic environments. Hike will focus on students conducting some basic chemical tests and macroinvertebrate studies at the stream.



California Woods

Program & Description

Season Available

Grade Level

Local Wildlife

F, W, S

K-2



Students will recognize various animal species by determining similar characteristics and classifying by groups. An indoor presentation will focus on classification, while the interpretive hike will reveal animal homes and food sources.

Forest Ecology: What's the Connection?



F, W, S

1-3

Students will determine the basic needs of a forest ecosystem and discover diverse ways of how animals and plants adapt to their environment. An interpretive hike will focus on diversity and the relationships between species.

Note: **Surfing the Food Web** available for grades 4 – 6.

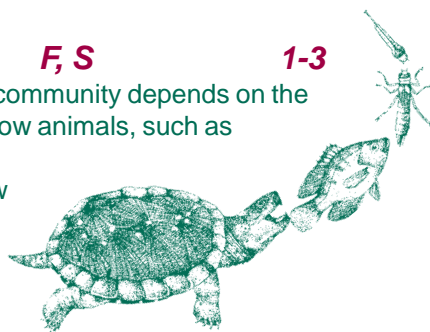
Aquatic Communities



F, S

1-3

Students will focus on how the aquatic community depends on the stream for survival. A close-up look of how animals, such as insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals depend on the water, and how we, as people, can affect such an important community.



Note: **Stream Sense: A Close-Up Investigation** available for grades 4-6.

Nature's Cycles

F, W, S

1-4

Students will discuss cycles in nature including life cycles of amphibians (toads/frogs), insects (honeybees), plants, water, oxygen and carbon dioxide. An interpretive hike will focus on seasonal cycles of nature.



Fascination with Pollination

F, S

2-6

Students will observe honey bees up-close through an observation hive and discover their important role in pollination. Hands-on activities will cover flower parts, bee biology and hive components.

Habitats & Where They're At

F, W, S



2-6

Students will discover various ecosystems within the preserve and determine if such areas are meeting the basic needs of its inhabitants. The interpretive hike will discuss how the environment is under constant change and how humans impact these ecosystems.

Weather: Wild or Mild?

F, S

2-6

Students will become junior meteorologists as they learn how to make predictions about the weather. Using a weather map and symbols, the students will interpret patterns most often encountered in our region. Weather demonstrations and instrument experiments will be performed by the students.



Eroding Earth



F, S

3-6

Students will recognize natural and human-influenced effects of the weathering process. Students will observe areas of surface change caused by erosion and flooding. An erosion walk of Lick Run will be conducted by the students to determine its condition.



Trees: From Acorns to Xylem



F, S

3-6

Students will learn the function of a tree and its parts, branching patterns, and leaf characteristics.

A simple key will be used by students to help identify tree species found in the preserve.

An Old Way of Life: A Pioneer Experience

F, S

3-6

Students will gain knowledge of pioneer ways and experience a typical day in the life of a pioneer. Students will realize how lifestyles, religion, customs and traditions helped shape Cincinnati. A visit to Memorial Pioneer Cemetery can be arranged as part of the field trip.



LaBoiteaux Woods

Program & Description

Season Available

Grade Level



The Wonders of Fall in the Forest

F



K-4

This program centers on an interpretive walk through a wooded nature preserve, where students will see and learn the workings of nature, including interactions, interdependencies, and other processes that affect all living things, including themselves. Most programs will include either an original play involving the students or a puppet show, and live animal close-ups.

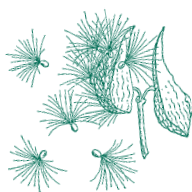
Lessons Learned from Nature



F, S

1-6

This program brings students closer to the natural world as they learn how many of the ideas for “our” inventions came from nature. An interpretive walk will reveal the inspiration for airplanes, parachutes, velcro, air conditioning and many more. Students will study the natural processes of decomposition and recycling, and relate them to efforts by people to use the earth’s resources in a sustainable way.



Web of Life

F, S

4-8

A hands-on program in a forested setting, where students observe the interactions and interdependencies of native plant and animal life. Ecological concepts such as plant and animal succession, carrying capacity and life cycles will be integrated into the program. Students will also learn of their important connections to the natural world, and will be led to appreciate the significance of their own personal actions in relation to nature’s intricate web of life.

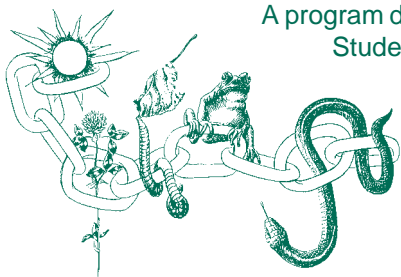
Ecology at the Source

F, S

9-12

A program designed to enhance classroom studies.

Students will engage in a first-hand study of ecological processes in a woodland ecosystem. Topics include food chains and food webs, biodiversity, carrying capacity, natural selection, and the abiotic factors necessary for life.



Our Changing Earth

F

4-12

Fossils from the Ordovician Period hold clues to our ancient past. In an interactive setting students will discover and examine fossils to learn how they give us crucial information about the earth's changes and evolutionary processes. Carbonization, petrification, and sedimentation are some of the processes that will be explored.



Our Endangered Wildlife

F, S

4-8

The emphasis is on the endangered plant and animal life in our locale. This program is highly visual and interactive. Students will learn species of endangered plants and animals, what is causing their demise, how to prevent their loss and what part they can play in rescue efforts.

Living History

W

3-8

The program is centered on the North American woodland Indians and the early American settlers and their connections to the natural environment. The concepts and facts presented are compatible with school



promotion standards. The 4-hour program includes a short original play with student involvement, an interpretive Indian walk, a hands-on spinning and wool-carding demonstration, making "Johnny-Cake" by the fireside, and playing pioneer and Indian games.

These activities are designed to project the contrasting lifestyles of settlers and Indians and to demonstrate how these differences affected the natural woodland habitat and the human history of the region. This program is modified to meet the needs of each age group.

Spring Magic in the Forest

S

K-3

This program uses an interpretive woodland walk, original nature play or puppet show, and live animals to reveal how nature comes alive in the spring season and to teach important interdependencies between wildlife and plants. Pollination, photosynthesis, and decomposition are included in the program.



California Woods Nature Center



K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9+

F W S

Local Wildlife

Forest Ecology: What's the Connection?

Surfing the Food Web

Aquatic Communities

Stream Sense

Nature's Cycles

Fascination with Pollination

Habitats & Where They're At

Weather: Wild or Mild?

Eroding Earth

Trees: From Acorns to Xylem

An Old Way of Life

Krohn Conservatory

Guided tours available for school classes.

Call 421-5707 for more information.



LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Center

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9+

F W S

The Wonders of Fall in the Forest

Lessons Learned From Nature

Web of Life

Ecology at the Source

Our Changing Earth

Our Endangered Wildlife

Living History

Spring Magic in the Forest

Trailside Nature Center in Burnet Woods

Planetarium and Lake programs will be available for part of the 2002-2003 school year.

Call 321-6070 x 10 for scheduling.

Call 751-3679 for more information about Trailside and available programs.

With over 5,000 acres preserved in more than 150 park areas, Cincinnati's Parks are among the most extensive and best regarded in the nation. Park sizes range from small neighborhood gardens to 1,471-acre Mt. Airy Forest, one of the nation's largest municipal forests. Fifty-nine parks contain over ten acres; twenty-one comprise fifty acres or more. Spread geographically throughout the city, Cincinnati Parks grace every neighborhood.

If your school is located within Cincinnati, there is a park near you.

Your closest park might be a traditional developed park, an undeveloped nature preserve, a recreation area, or community greenspace. The resources at your disposal will vary from park to park, but you are sure to find opportunities that will enhance and strengthen your lesson plans.

Entrance into all Cincinnati parks is free, as is the use of their outdoor areas.

At developed parks you can expect to find picnic areas, shelters, playgrounds, and natural areas that range from lawns to meadows to extensive woodlands with trail systems. Undeveloped preserves and greenspace protect a variety of natural habitats; trails may or may not be present. Some special features and facilities are:

- a self-guiding Tree Trail (Ault Park)
- Arboretums and educational gardens (Mt. Airy Forest; Ault)
- the Presidential Tree Grove (Eden Park)
- overlooks of the city and its rivers (great for history & earth science)
- over a mile of natural river bank (Fernbank Park; Magrath Preserve)
- sculpture and architecture both historic and modern
- historic structures, locations, monuments, and a pioneer cemetery
- Frisbee golf courses; and a Fitness Trail (Eden Park).

For brochures on the Arboretums, Overlooks, or Art and Architecture; for a list of Cincinnati parks; or for general information on the facilities available at a particular park, call **352-4080**.

For more information on the natural habitats, species, or resources found in a particular park, call **321-6070**.

Park Naturalists encourage you to use your parks as educational resources for science, social studies, and language arts. ***If you would like a Park naturalist to attend a staff meeting to discuss how your school can best use a nearby Cincinnati park, call the Nature Center nearest you or 321-6070.*** Naturalists are also willing to work with individual teachers, as time allows, helping them discover the outdoor learning center hidden in their neighborhood park.